

Rusk Asks Senate For SE Asia Aid Now

Associated Press

Secretary of State Dean Rusk said yesterday that the United States cannot await peace in South Viet-Nam to begin "expanded processes of social and economic development" in Southeast Asia.

He formally asked the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to add \$89 million to the pending \$3,352,170,000 foreign aid bill. The additional money would be used for new programs in South Viet-Nam, Laos and Thailand.

Rusk told the Senators the United States would like to hold open the possibility that a peaceful North Viet-Nam might ultimately share in the Asian development plan.

He testified at a closed session, but copies of his prepared opening statement were given to newsmen. The hearing was called in advance of today's Senate session when the foreign aid bill will come up for the start of debate expected to last at least 10 days.

President Johnson sent Congress a message earlier this week asking for the extra \$89 million.

In his message, Mr. Johnson said the United States "has no alternative but to reply with strength" to North Viet-Nam-supported Viet Cong attacks on South Viet-Nam.

But, Rusk reminded the Committee, the President also stressed that military action is only a partial means to a much larger goal of meeting the human needs of the peoples of Southeast Asia.

The largest element in the request, Rusk said, is \$45 mil-

lion to finance South Viet-Nam's commercial imports to help it maintain economic growth and avoid destructive inflation.

"This increased dependence on our aid results partly from Viet Cong interdiction of rice shipments, rail and road sabotage and terrorism—all combining to prevent any rice export earnings in 1965," Rusk said.

"In the eight northern coastal provinces of Viet-Nam alone, some 215,000 refugees have fled their homes because of Viet Cong terror, 9000 in just the past week. This mass movement of people requires more construction materials, medicines, and food—not to mention the other economic and social consequences of such mass uprooting."

Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.), the Committee chairman, and Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield of Montana, a Committee member, both support Mr. Johnson's request. Mansfield said it should be considered as part of the foreign aid bill, rather than as separate legislation.